

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: FURTHER ANALYSIS OF CABINET CHANGES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0269

1. SEVERAL MORNING PAPERS SPECULATE THAT YESTERDAY'S CABINET CHANGES WERE A MARKED DISAPPOINTMENT TO LORENZO MIGUEL AND TO LABOR SECTOR GENERALLY. LABATT SOURCES SAY THIS IS ALSO CONSENSUS OF OPINION EXPRESSED IN CORRIDORS AT CGT. IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT LORENZO MIGUEL HAD BEEN PUSHING HIS OWN CANDIDATE FROM LABOR SECTOR FOR INTERIOR MINISTRY. SHORT OF THAT, HE WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE CAFIERO GET THE JOB, GIVEN THAT LATTER IS CLOSE FRIEND OF LABOR SECTOR AND ITS LEADERS. JUAN TACCONE, MOREOVER, NOW DIRECTOR OF SEGBA AND PREVIOUSLY LEADERS OF LIGHT AND POWER WORKERS, HAD FULLY EXPECTED TO BE NAMED MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE. HE HAS TOLD FRIENDS THAT HE STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. HE HAD BEEN TOLD HE WOULD GET JOB, BUT WHEN NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED, DEMARCO REMAINED IN PLACE. LABOR LEADERS HAD AT LEAST EXPECTED TO BE CONSULTED ON CHANGES. RATHER THAN CONSULTING THEM, HOWEVER, MRS. PERON, IN THEIR VIEW, PUBLICLY AND DELIBERATELY I GONORED THEM. DISAPPOINTMENT OF LABOR SECTOR IS SUCH THT EX-LABOR MINISTER SAN SEBASTIAN TOLD EMBOFFS THIS MORNING IT HIS UNDERSTANDIG ANNOUNCEMENT AND SWEARING IN OF NEW MINISTERS HAD BEEN RUSHED THROUGH YESTERDAY IN ORDER TO PRESENT LORENZO

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MIGUEL AND CAFIERO WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI UPON THEIR RETURN FROM

CARACAS LAST NIGHT --I.E., SO THAT THEIR EXPECTED DISAPPOINTMENT
WOULD BE EXPRESSED TOO LATE.

2. BUT WHILE LORENZO MIGUEL WAS NOT STRENGTHENED BY CHANGES, NEITHER
WAS HE WEAKENED. SACKING OF ROBLEDO AND ALLIES WAS NET GAIN FOR
HIM AND WHILE ROBERTO ARES IS NOT ONE OF MIGUEL'S OWN PEOPLE,
HE IS NOT A POLITICAL ENEMY. ON CONTRARY, ARES IS CLOSE TO LASTIRI,
WHO IN PAST HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH MIGUEL. SIMIARLY, DEHEZA IS
A CLOSE POLITICAL ALLY OF JULIO GONZALEZ, WHO IS ALSO ON SAME SIDE
OF FENCE AS MIGUEL.

3. AS ONE PAPER ANALYZED IT THIS MORNING, CHANGES REPRESENTED MOVE
TO SOLIDIFY POSITION OF VERTICALISMO, IN WHICH THREE MAJOR POLES
OF POWER BELOW MRS. PERON ARE NOW LASTIRI, GONZALEZ AND MIGUEL.
CHANGES REPRESENTED MAJOR VICTORY FOR FIRST TWO AND SIMPLY A NET
GAIN FOR MIGUEL. BUT SINCE LATTER DID NOT WIN NEARLY AS MANY
MARBLES AS HE THOUGHT HE HAD A RIGHT TO, HE SEES IT AS A SLIGHT AND
IS IN A STATE OF PIQUE -- WHICH, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO BE
TEMPORARY.

4. WE NOTE THAT AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, ARES WAS CAREFUL
TO AVOID ANY INDICATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD INTERVENE BA
AND SANTA FE PROVINCES, SAYING ONLY THAT HE WISHED TO STUDY THESE
AND OTHER MATTERS IN DEPTH BEFORE MAKING ANY STATEMENT.

5. UCR SOURCES TELL US THEY ARE NOT DEEPLY DISTURBED BY
CHANGES. ARES IS A PERONIST THEY KNOW AND LIKE, THOUGH THEY ARE
CONCERNED BY HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH LASTIRI. DEHEZA THEY
REGARD AS A GONZALEZ STOOGES WHO HAS NONE OF REQUISITES FOR JOB.
BUT, AS ONE HIGH-RANKING UCR LEADER PUT IT, "HE IS NO WORSE THAN
SOME OF THE OTHER CABINET OFFICERS AND PERHAPS EVEN A LITTLE
BETTER."
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